

REMARKS

Upon entering the above amendments to the claims, claims 24-25 and 46-47 will be pending in this application and are presented for examination. Claims 9-21, 26-38, 40-45 and 48-50 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 22 and 39 stand rejected. Claims 9-23, 26-45 and 48-50 are now canceled by Applicants without forfeiting any right to pursue canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuation application. Claims 46 and 47 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting allowable subject matter in claims 23-25.

Claims 46 and 47 have been amended to depend only from independent claim 24. Applicants believe no new matter is present in this or any other portion of the present amendment.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 22 and 39 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully note that claims 22 and 39 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

II. Unconsidered Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully note that the art cited in the IDS submitted on January 29, 2002, does not appear to have been considered by the Examiner, as Applicants have not yet received a copy of the PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B forms with the Examiner's initials.

Appl. No. 09/828,270
Amdt. dated May 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 24, 2002

PATENT

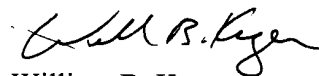
Enclosed for the Examiner's convenience is a copy of the PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B forms submitted in the IDS on January 29, 2002 (see Exhibit A), as well as the return postcard showing receipt of the IDS on February 14, 2002. If the Examiner is in possession of the art, Applicants respectfully request prompt consideration of the art cited. However, if the Examiner is not in possession of the art, Applicants will gladly forward additional copies for the Examiner's consideration.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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